Representation by MPs for Inclusin of FP & ARD in the Ministry of Agriculture

475 SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will he Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 27 Members of Parliament in a representation had requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 16th March, 1993 that FP & ARD under Ministry of Fertilizer should be entrusted to Miuistry of Agriculture because of its potential for fertilizer promotion and education among the farmers;

(b) whether this proposal was sent by the Prime Minister to Agriculture Minister for consideration and a Committee was constituted to explore this possibility;

(c) if so, what further action has been taken by the Ministry of Agriculture to implement this proposal if not,, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is not a fact that FP & ARD under HFC of Fertilizer has so far executed Dryland Farming Project funded by UK from 1976 to 1988 and Rainfed Farming Project in West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa from November, 1988 till date; and

(e) why this experiene is not being utilised by the Agriculture Ministry on an All India scale in view of the necessity of such projects in many other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The matter was referred to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, who are of the view that since the activities of the FP & ARD are closely related with the marketing of fertilisers, the efficient functioning at field level as well as the result oriented approach could be achieved if it is managed by the fertiliser producing companies. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation therefore, did not constitute any Committee.

Government has not taken any decision to close down FR & ARD of HFC.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture is already executing two Centrally Sponsored Scheme and seven Foreign assisted Rainfed Farming Projects through State Governments.

News Paper Report on import of butter oil

476. SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an Editorial published in 'THE Hindustan Times' dated 22nd November, 1994 pointing out that the recent decision to permit the National Dairy Development Board to import 20,000 tonnes of butter oil is "an anti-consumer trend" and in favour of "the financial interests of dairy product manufacturers";

(b) if so, what prevented the Central Government to import the same during the last four months or so when acute shortage of butter oil was perceived and the retailers openly charged a black price for table butter in the market; and

(c) the present availability position of butter oil in the country and the quantity imported till date alongwith

the imported cost/duty paid by N.D.D.B. during the last three months, of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The impact of butter shortage was felt only in September, 1994 as milk production and procurement failed to pick up following heavy and prolonged monsoon in major milksheds. The cooperatives had exhausted their stock of milk-fat and the private dairies were felt to be holding back stocks. The cooperatives could not increase the supplies of butter and ghee because of their commitment to supply the liquid milk to metro and other urban centres. The Government has to take the decision to import only after the European Economic Community (EEC) supply of butter oil committed under Operation Flood-III Programme which was due by June, 1994 did not materialise.

(c) Since butter oil is not manufactured in the country there is no stock of domestic butter oil. The details of the butter oil imported/being imported during the last three months is as follows:

Month	Qty Recd/being recd.	Cost (MT) (US$)	Duty (%)
October, 94	250 MT	1600 C&F	40 (*)
November, 94			
(a)	250 MT	1600 C&F	40 (*)
(b)	992 MT	1600 C&F	20 (**)
December, 94			
(a)	1008 MT	1730 CIF	20 (**)
(b)	800 MT	1770 CIF	20 (**)

(*)—Against Permission of 500 MT at normal rate of 40%.
(**)—Against permission of 20000 MT at concessional rate of 20%.

उत्तर प्रदेश में खाद्यान्नों का उत्पादन

477. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1992–93 और 1993–94 के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश में खाद्यान्नों का कुल उत्पादन कितना हुआ और वर्ष 1994–95 हेतु इस संबंध में क्या लक्ष्य रखा गया है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने उत्तर प्रदेश में खाद्यान्नों का उत्पादन बढ़ाने हेतु कोई कार्यक्रम तैयार किया है ; और

(ग) चालू वर्ष के दौरान खाद्यान्नों का जिला-वार कितना-कितना उत्पादन हुआ ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेताम) : (क) 1992–93 और 1993–94 के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश में खाद्यान्नों का कुल उत्पादन क्रमशः 361.81 और 368.67 लाख टन था। 1994–95 के लिये उत्तर प्रदेश में खाद्यान्नों के उत्पादन का लक्ष्य 388.80 लाख टन रखा गया है।